

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (CANCELED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, the hook material having stems arrayed thereupon with the stems each terminating in a hook, the method comprising the step of raking along a length of the hook material with a member having a leading edge with a plurality of spaced teeth disposed in parallel rows, wherein
- the width of each respective tooth, and
  - the spacing apart of adjacent teeth,
- are such that adjacent hooks on the hook material have one of the teeth fit therebetween closely adjacent to their stems, and wherein the leading edge is raked along the length of the hook material to have the teeth engage and bend the hooks from a hooked state to a more straightened state such that debris situated within the hooks is lifted from the hook material by the teeth.
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 15 wherein the teeth are centered approximately 0.8 mm apart, with the widths and spacing of the teeth being such that each tooth engages at least a major portion of a surface area of the hook material between adjacent stems.
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 15 wherein the teeth are centered 0.7-0.9 mm apart, with the widths and spacing of the teeth being such that each tooth engages at least a major portion of a surface area of the hook material between adjacent stems.

18. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The method of claim 15 wherein:
- a. the spacings between adjacent teeth are ~~at least equal to or slightly greater than~~ the thickness of one of the stems, such that the teeth engage adjacent hooks and/or their stems, and
  - b. the width of each tooth is ~~less than equal to or slightly less than~~ the distance between adjacent stems, such that each tooth engages at least a major portion of a surface area of the hook material between adjacent stems.
19. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the teeth has a wedge-shaped leading edge.
20. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the teeth terminates in a leading edge, and has a width which increases as the tooth extends rearwardly of the leading edge.
21. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The method of claim 20 wherein the tooth has opposing sides with the leading edge therebetween, and wherein both sides incline away from the leading edge.
22. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The method of claim 15 ~~wherein~~:
- a: ~~the plurality of spaced teeth define a first line on the member, and~~
  - b: ~~the member further comprises a second line of spaced teeth on the member,~~
- wherein the plurality of teeth are disposed in a first row on the leading edge and a second row extending parallel to the first row, and wherein the teeth in the second line row are arrayed in echelon with the teeth in the first ~~line row~~.

23. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An apparatus for restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, such hook material having thereupon an array of stems terminating in hooks, the apparatus being defined by a plastic rake sized to fit within a user's hand and including:

- (1) a plurality of spaced teeth defined in a first discrete set wherein:
  - a. the width of each respective tooth, and
  - b. the spacing apart of adjacent teeth,are sized to allow each tooth to closely pass between adjacent stems on the hook material,
- (2) a second discrete set of spaced teeth is provided spaced from the first set, wherein the teeth in the second set are:
  - a. sized and spaced similarly to the teeth in the first set, and
  - b. angled differently than the teeth in the first set,

wherein each tooth includes a forward leading edge, and each tooth is tapered to increase in:

- a. width,
- b. height, and
- c. thickness,

as the tooth extends rearwardly of the leading edge, wherein raking the sets of spaced teeth along a length of hook material causes the teeth to engage and bend the hooks from a hooked state to a more straightened state such that debris situated within the hooks is lifted from the hook material by the teeth.

- 24-26. (CANCELED)

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, such hook material having thereupon an array of stems terminating in hooks, the apparatus being defined by a plastic rake sized to fit within the hand, and including:

- a. an elongated handle having at least substantially uniform width ~~along its~~ extending along the length of the handle, and
- b. first and second arrays of teeth extending from the handle, wherein the arrays of teeth extend across the width of the handle at or adjacent one end of the length of the handle,

wherein the first and second arrays each define one or more rows of teeth, the rows in the first array being parallel to the rows in the second array, and wherein:

- (1) each tooth within the arrays is sized to fit between adjacent stems of hook material,
- (2) adjacent teeth of each array are spaced to allow passage of one of the stems therebetween, and
- (3) the teeth within the rows of the first array are angled differently from the teeth within the rows of the second array,

wherein the teeth are sized, spaced, and angled such that raking the sets of spaced teeth along a length of hook material causes the teeth to engage and bend the hooks from a hooked state to a more straightened state, and thereby lift debris situated within the hooks.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first array and second array are spaced by a toothless valley.

29. (CANCELED)

30. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the teeth of the second array are set in echelon with the teeth of the first array.
31. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one of the arrays includes tapered teeth, wherein each tapered tooth grows thicker in at least one dimension as it the tapered tooth extends rearwardly from the leading edge of the tapered tooth.
32. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The apparatus of claim 31 wherein each tapered tooth is axially symmetric in at least one plane defined along an axis extending rearwardly from the leading edge of the tapered tooth.
33. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein at least one of the arrays includes tapered teeth, wherein each tapered tooth grows thicker in at least one dimension as the tapered tooth extends rearwardly from its leading edge.
34. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The method of claim 22 wherein the teeth in the second line are angled in non-parallel relationship with the teeth in the first line.
35. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the teeth in the second discrete set are arrayed in echelon with the teeth in the first discrete set.
36. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:
- a. the rake further includes a handle from which the teeth extend,
  - b. the sets of spaced teeth extend across the width of the handle at or adjacent one end of the length of the handle, and
  - c. the handle has an at least substantially uniform width along ~~its length~~ the length of the handle.